City of Corvallis

Organizational Sustainability

Achieving a more sustainable organization.

City departments have examined their operating procedures and practices for opportunities to enhance sustainability, and have achieved a great deal in the last three years.

Promote, Reduce, Encourage

- Promote efficient & environmentally friendly operations - protect clean air and water
- Promote recycling, waste reduction and solid waste management
- Reduce energy consumption and the use of natural resources
- Reduce the use of toxic materials and release of biotoxins into the environment
- Encourage conservation of native vegetation and habitat

Sustainable Purchasing Practices

Goes beyond a comparison of the lowest bid to an analysis of life-cycle costs:

- Initial cost of the product
- Cost to operate and maintain the product through its useful life
- Cost of disposing, recycling, or reusing the product
- Least total impact on the environment

Sustainable purchasing or reuse efforts

Purchasing low-sulphur diesel fuel with 20% bio-diesel to minimize pollution.

Sustainable purchasing or reuse efforts

Acquired 16 used bus shelters from Lane Transit District for reuse at no cost.

Sustainable purchasing or reuse efforts

Reuse discarded fire hose to replace worn weather stripping on the hangar doors at the Corvallis Municipal Airport.

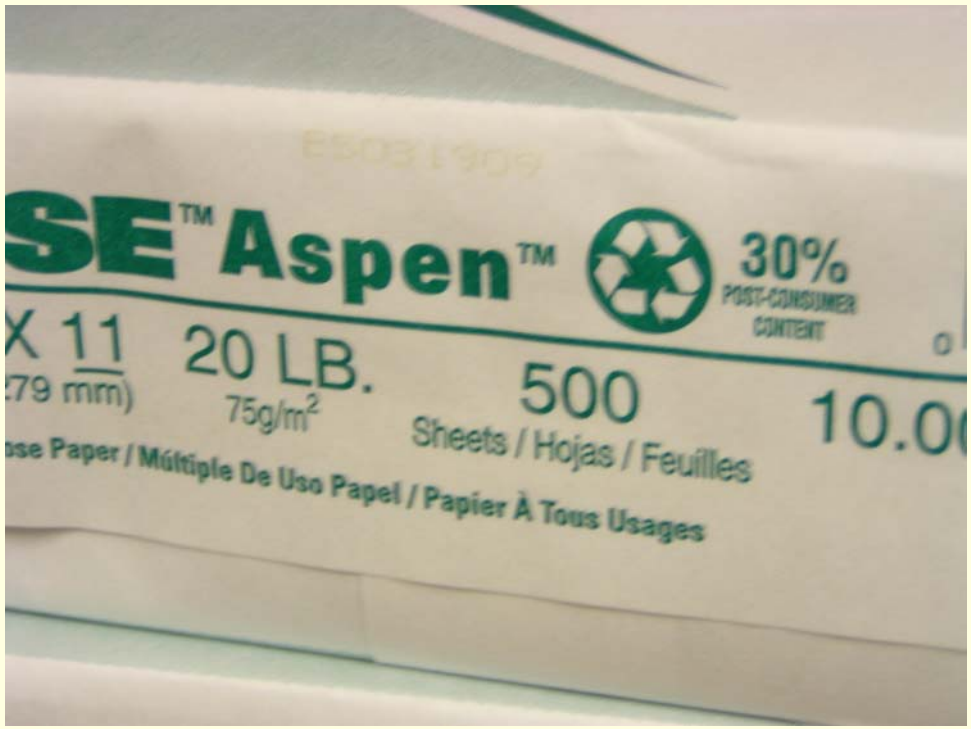
Sustainable purchasing or reuse efforts

Coordinated two projects to remove rip-rap from one to use on the other.

Sustainable purchasing or reuse efforts

Purchased used fire apparatus and street paving equipment.

Sustainable purchasing or reuse efforts



Purchase paper with a minimum of 30% recycled content.

Sustainable purchasing or reuse efforts

Share computer printers and work stations to reduce new purchases.

Land Use Planning

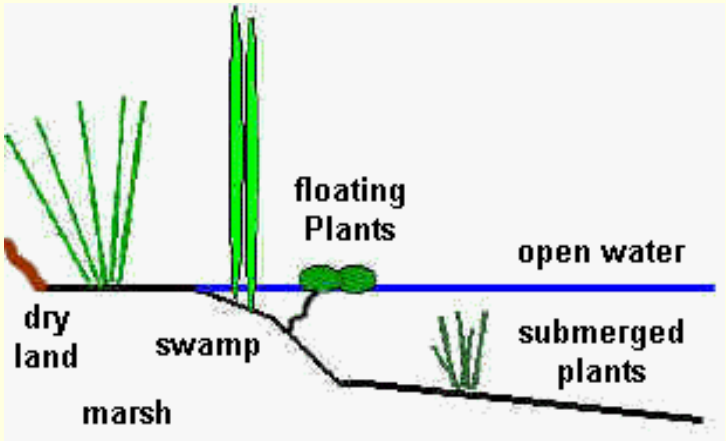
Land use planning attempts to achieve a balance between developed and natural areas to reduce the environmental impact from development.

Land Use Planning

Projects are reviewed prior to development to balance:

- Economic
- Environmental, and
- Community needs

Land Use Planning



Completed Natural Features Inventory to balance protecting natural resources with the need for development.

Land Use Planning

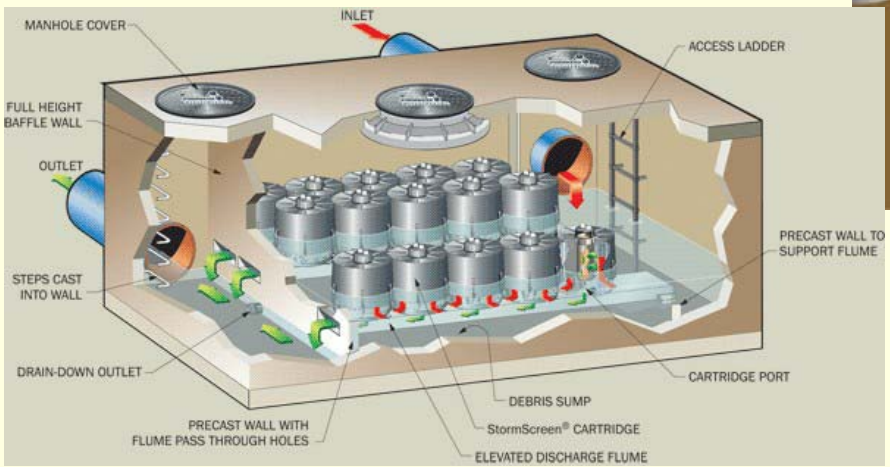
Implemented the use of bio-swales for detention of natural water run-off.

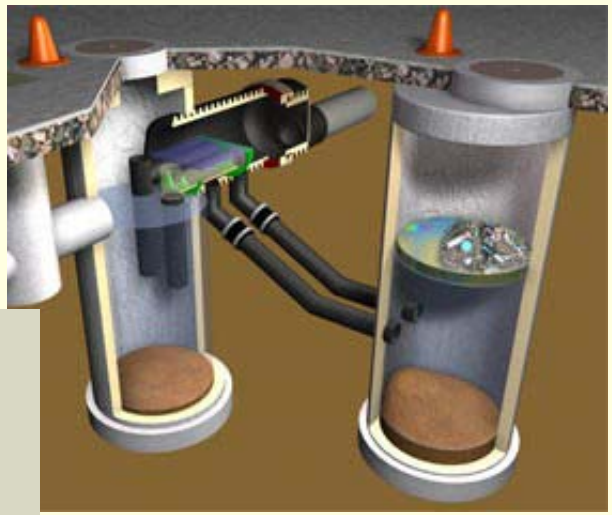
Land Use Planning

Created a storm water detention program for new developments.

Land Use Planning

Implemented storm water quality practices by





installing underground filter systems.

Land Use Planning

Completed Endangered Species Act Response Plan for salmon recovery efforts.

Land Use Planning

Removed non-native species from a riparian area and replanted with native species.

Land Use Planning

Improved streetscape in the downtown core and other developments in the city.

Land Use Planning

Acquired 450 acres of open space.

Land Use Planning

Developed six new parks for regional and neighborhood use, including Riverfront Park.

Land Use Planning

Installed bicycle lanes on 90% of arterial and collector streets.

Green Building Practices

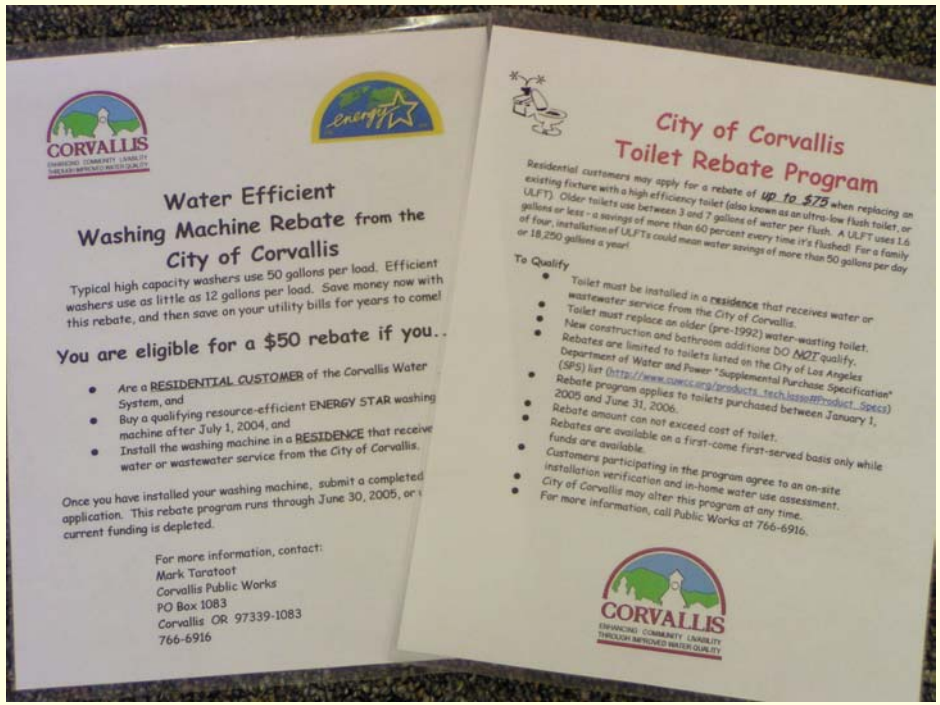
Green building practices take into account the life-cycle of a building including energy efficiency and resource conservation techniques.

Green Building Practices

Encompasses everything from site selection, taking advantage of local environmental conditions and natural characteristics, to construction, using locally produced materials, materials with recycled content or materials that minimize construction waste, to future operating costs, selecting water- and energy-efficient products.

Green Building Practices

Provided rebates for purchase of water efficient washing machines and low flow toilets.



Water Efficient
Washing Machine Rebate from the City of Corvallis

Typical high capacity washers use 50 gallons per load. Efficient washers use as little as 12 gallons per load. Save money now with this rebate, and then save on your utility bills for years to come!

You are eligible for a $50 rebate if you..

- Are a RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER of the Corvallis Water System, and
- Buy a qualifying resource-efficient ENERGY STAR washing machine after July 1, 2004, and
- Install the washing machine in a RESIDENCE that receive water or wastewater service from the City of Corvallis.

Once you have installed your washing machine, submit a completed application. This rebate program runs through June 30, 2005, or current funding is depleted.

For more information, contact:
Mark Taratoot
Corvallis Public Works
PO Box 1083
Corvallis OR 97339-1083
766-6916

City of Corvallis
Toilet Rebate Program

Residential customers may apply for a rebate of *up to $75* when replacing an existing fixture with a high efficiency toilet (also known as an ultra-low flush toilet, or ULFT). Older toilets use between 3 and 7 gallons of water per flush. A ULFT uses 1.6 gallons or less - a savings of more than 60 percent every time it's flushed! For a family of four, installation of ULFTs could mean water savings of more than 50 gallons per day or 18,250 gallons a year!

To Qualify

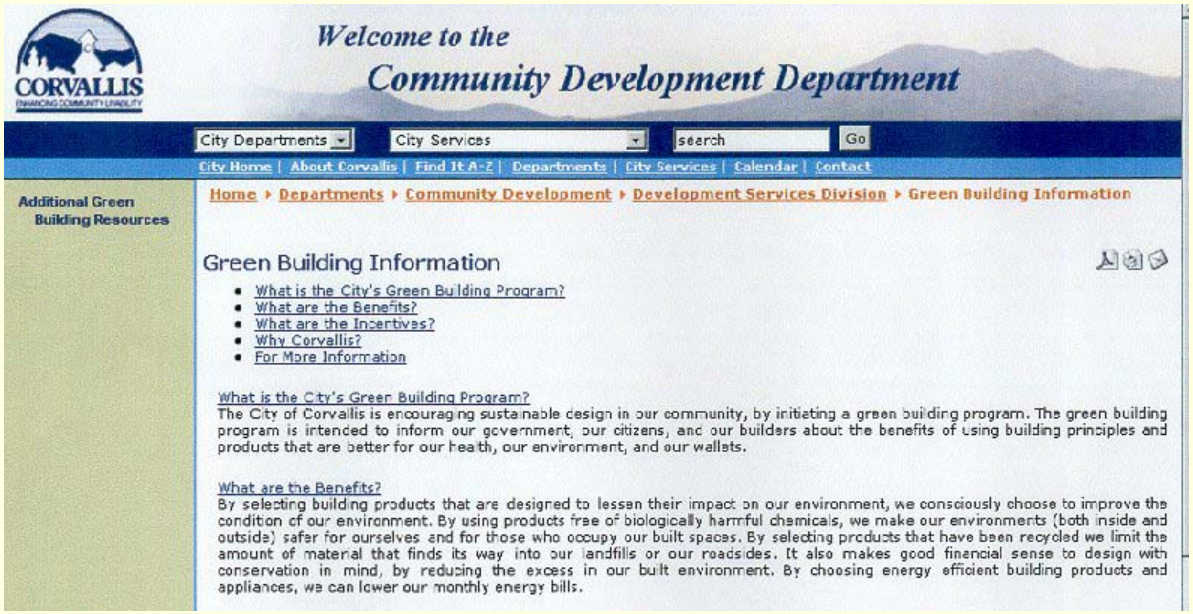
- Toilet must be installed in a residence that receives water or wastewater service from the City of Corvallis.
- Toilet must replace an older (pre-1992) water-wasting toilet.
- New construction and bathroom additions DO *NOT* qualify.
- Rebates are limited to toilets listed on the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power "Supplemental Purchase Specification" (SPS) list (http://www.cuwcc.org/products_tech/lossoftProduct_Specs)
- Rebate program applies to toilets purchased between January 1, 2005 and June 31, 2006.
- Rebate amount can not exceed cost of toilet.
- Rebates are available on a first-come first-served basis only while funds are available.
- Customers participating in the program agree to an on-site installation verification and in-home water use assessment.
- City of Corvallis may alter this program at any time.
- For more information, call Public Works at 766-6916.

Green Building Practices

Used pavers and gravel parking areas to reduce runoff.

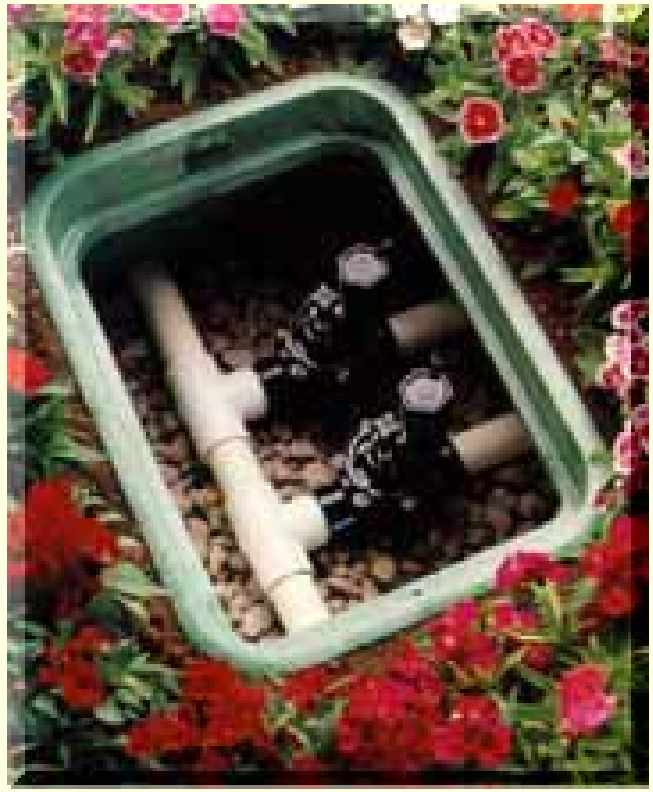
Green Building Practices

Initiated Green Building program by starting an informational website.



Green Building Practices

Installed irrigation controls to minimize water consumption in parks.



Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Greenhouse gas emissions are released into the atmosphere through manufacturing, agricultural and industrial processes that commonly burn fossil fuels, solid waste or wood products.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

With over 85% of the electricity used in City operations generated from burning fossil fuel, the City works with local utilities, the Energy Trust of Oregon and the Oregon Department of Energy to identify energy conservation and renewable energy projects to minimize energy consumption and reduce green house gas emissions.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Continuing participation in Go Green and Blue Sky renewable power program (wind power purchase).

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Installed a thermal pool cover on the small pool to reduce evaporation, heat loss and natural gas consumption.

Currently, exploring the use of a thermal pool cover on the large pool.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Retrofitted traffic signals with light emitting diode bulbs to save energy and reduce electrical costs by 11.5%.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Replaced existing vehicles with more fuel efficient hybrid vehicles.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Using bio-gas to heat the Wastewater Reclamation Plant to offset natural gas consumption.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Increased transit ridership to over 530,000 trips annually focusing on OSU, Philomath, Albany and Corvallis.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Installed high efficiency pumps, motors and variable speed drives on the intake structure at the Taylor Water Treatment Plant.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Completed lighting upgrades at the Library, Taylor and Wastewater plants.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Used the Bookmobile to reduce the number of people who need to drive to library services.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Encourage all employees to turn off lights, copiers and computer monitors when not in use.

Solid Waste Management

Solid waste management practices promote recycling and reuse of products, and minimization of waste.

Solid Waste Management

- All paper products, co-mingled materials, and cardboard at each City facility is recycled or reused.
- Wood waste and metal are collected for reuse or recycling.
- Waste building materials are reused by a local, non-profit building material center.

Solid Waste Management

Office paper, magazines, newspapers, cardboard, plastics and more, are collected in each City building for recycling.

Solid Waste Management

Reclaimed water is used for irrigation where allowed by federal and state law.

Solid Waste Management

Collect office paper ream wrappers for reuse as children's book covers or craft paper.

Solid Waste Management

Screen and recycle street cleaning debris and use as top dressing or soil additive for planting.

Solid Waste Management

Distributed over 150 cubic yards of wood chips to the public.

Toxics and Persistent Biotoxins

Persistent biotoxins are substances that once released into the environment don't degrade over time, but stay in the ecological systems causing harm to a variety of life forms.

Toxics and Persistent Biotoxins

Mercury is a good example of a persistent biotoxin that settles in the water plant life, is eaten by small aquatic creatures, who are eaten by large fish, who are eaten by humans.

Each link in the chain is effected by the mercury in the system.

Toxics and Persistent Biotoxins

The City is committed to reducing use of toxics and continually examines environmentally friendly chemicals for use in operations, including the application of pesticides, herbicides, adhesives, and paints. The Fire Department recently substituted toxic cleaning chemicals in each fire station with “Sustainable Earth Certified” cleaning agents.

Toxics and Persistent Biotoxins

Reuse 5 million gallons of bio-solids annually to offset commercial fertilizer requirements on local crop lands.

Toxics and Persistent Biotoxins

Extracted more than 31.1 million gallons of contaminated groundwater from the United Chrome Superfund site.

Toxics and Persistent Biotoxins

Completed the Combined Sewer Overflow and treatment facilities.

Toxics and Persistent Biotoxins

Use citrus based cleansers and soy bean oils to minimize use of diesel fuel for cleaning equipment.

Toxics and Persistent Biotoxins

Recovered and refined used antifreeze for reuse.

Toxics and Persistent Biotoxins

Switched from lead based paint to water based material for all street, parking lot and bikelane/path applications.

City of Corvallis Organizational Sustainability

This presentation provided a snapshot of some of the successful efforts taken by the City to enhance community livability through organizational sustainable practices.

City of Corvallis Organizational Sustainability

The City is continually seeking opportunities to promote sustainability in its operations to minimize its impact on the environment and future generations.

For additional information or suggestions, please contact the Public Works Department at 766-6916.